tal production of primary aluminium in the country is expected to be around 3,60,000 tonnes.

(b) The indigenous production and imports of aluminium from 1984-85 to 1988-89 have been as under:—

Year	Indigenous production	Imports by MMTC	Total availability
	(in 000' tonnes).		
1984-85	276	47	323
1985-86	265	20	285
1986-87	257	65	322
1987-88	278	55	333
1988-89 (estimated).	360	..	360

(c) and (d) With the progressive increase in the production of aluminium metal by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), monthly production of aluminium metal has increased from about 26,000 tonnes in April, 1988 to over 33,00 tonnes in January, 1989 Planning Commission have estimated that during 1989-90, the production will be around 436,000 tonnes. As the demand is likely to be around 400,000 tonnes, there will be a surplus of over 30,000 tonnes.

However, import of aluminium including aluminium rods have been placed on open Geneal Licence (OGL) with marginal level of customs duty of Rs. 500 per tonne from July, 1988, which will cater to any unforeseen situations.

Discount on Fertilisers

463. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directives have been issued recently on fertiliser discounts?

(b) if so, extent of discount and whether these are mandatory or mere recommendations; and

(c) whether any reimbursement of such discounts is also allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, sir

(b) and (c) Government of India directed the fertiliser companies to give a uniform discount of 7.5 per cent on the notified maximum consumer price of urea to the farmers during Kharif 1988 season (April—Sept. 1988). It was also decided to compansate the fertilizer companies for the discount on actual sales of urea during this period. Subsequently, the Government of India decided to permit fertiliser companies to continue the 7.5 per cent discount during rabi 1988-89 season also (October 1988—March 1989) but no compensation was allowed to them for the discount on sales of urea in Rabi 1988-89.

Cut in the Rice Quota of Kerala

464. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rice quota for Kerala State has been drastically cut recently;

(b) if so, what is the monthly requirements of rice for the public distribution in the State; what was the monthly allotments during the year 1988 and at present after the latest cut; and

(c) what are the reasons for the reduction in the allotments to the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (c) The allocation of rice to various States/Union Territories was reviewed in February, 1989 keeping in view overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool relative needs of various States, improved market availability on arrival of new rice crop and the fact that the supply to Public Distribution System is only supplemental in nature. As a result of the review, the rice quota of most States, including Kerala was reduced uniformly by 20 per cent.

(b) A statement showing demand and allotment of rice to Kerala from January, 1988 to February, 1989 is attached.

Statement

Statement Indicating Demand and Allotment of rice to Kerala from January, 1988 to February, 1989 for PDS.

(in 000' tonnes)

Month	Demand	Allotment
1988		
January . . .	200.0	145.0*
February . .	200.0	135.0
March . . .	200.0	125.0
April . . .	200.0	125.0
May . . .	200.0	125.0
June . . .	200.0	125.0
July . . .	200.0	125.0
August . .	200.0	145.0
September . .	200.0	125.0
October . .	200.0	125.0
November . .	200.0	125.0
December . .	200.0	125.0
1989		
January . .	200.0	125.0
February . .	200.0	100.0

* Includes 20,000 tonnes of rice as special allocation.

Conference of Chiefs of Zila Parishads and Panchayats etc.

465. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of about 8000 Chiefs of Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samithis and Village Panchayats from twelve Northern and Western States was convened in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the purpose of the conference and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A Conference of Chairman of Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samities, village Panchayats and Chairmen of Municipal Committees Town Area Committees of the Northern and Western States was organised in New Delhi from 27th to 30th January, 1989. This was attended by about 6,000 delegates of 11 States/UTs consisting of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and Union Territory of Delhi.

(c) The object of the Conference was to have grass-root level consultation with Panchayati Raj bodies or similar self-government structure available at district, block and village levels on issues like structure of Panchayati Raj or self-government district planning, decentralised planning and execution of development programmes. The views expressed by delegates on various issues would be useful in arriving at a National consensus on revitalisation of panchayati raj system.